

CIA Coup In Thailand

Kissinger's First Bloody Step To Wreck Southeast Asian Alliance

Oct. 8 (NSIPS) — This week the ultra-right-wing Armed Forces Chief Admiral of Thailand Sangad Chaloryu led a coup in that country which has resulted in the mass arrest of 13,000 students, 35 dead, and hundreds wounded, and a state of war throughout the countryside.

The bloody coup in Thailand, ordered by Henry Kissinger, is not directed at the population of Thailand alone. It is part of a larger Rockefeller scenario whose aim is the violent disruption of the regionwide alliance of Thailand, the socialist nations of Laos, Vietnam, Kampuchea, being organized by Indonesia and Malaysia, around the policy of peace and development put forward by the key advanced sector nation in the region, Japan.

The coup was planned by the Thai military elite, and followed the staged return of former Thai dictator General Thanom Kittikachorn to Bangkok. The Thai military, built by the CIA, has been used as mercenaries by the CIA during the Vietnam war and assists in running the CIA's drug smuggling operations in the region.

General Kittikachorn, chief of the hated government which was overthrown in October 1973 by mass student and worker protest, was met by widespread demonstrations led by the National Student Center of Thailand and the Thai Labor Council. The protests turned into riots when the army's Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC) sent the fascist Navapol or "New Force" movement, led by former Thai mercenaries in Vietnam and the "Red Guards" shocktroops under the command of Sudsai Hasdin, an ISOC colonel, to disrupt the protests. Using the staged provocations as their excuse, elite Thai military units including the border patrol paramilitary police and the metropolitan police moved into Bangkok to impose martial law and a reign of police terror.

Assault on Japan

The editorial page of the Oct. 7 Washington Post, the day of the Thai coup, announced that the coup in Thailand is only the beginning of an assault by Henry Kissinger on the entire region, focusing especially on Japan. In an article entitled "Japan — With Few Friends in Southeast Asia," CIA scribbler Hobart Rowen cites such "scholars" as Raul S. Manglapus, a Philippine right-wing socialist associate of U.S. CIA General Edward Lansdale from the 1950s now in exile in the U.S. as an employee of the Carnegie Foundation, who warns that Japan and Southeast Asia are on a "collision course." Rowan then proceeds to cite top agent Dr. Shinichi Ichimura, director of the Ford Foundation-created Center for Southeast Asia Studies at Kyoto University, who says that Japanese investment capital has poured into Asia beyond the "peril point." Rowen concludes by alleging that the rising hatred of Asians against the Japanese has created an "unhealthy and potentially explosive situation."

The Post article is a clear signal that the same CIA-linked networks which in 1974 were mobilized against then Japanese Premier Tanaka to prevent him from organizing an economic alliance between Japan and Southeast Asia outside the control of the U.S. multinationals are now being turned against Japan's anti-Atlanticist premier Takeo Miki. In 1974 these CIA networks in student and military circles in Indonesia organized riots in Jakarta to denounce the Japanese as "economic animals" when Tanaka visited there. At that time one of the agents Rowen cites

as being opposed to Japanese export of capital, Ichimura, stirred up anti-Japanese sentiment by telling a public forum of Indonesians and Japanese that the real reason for Indonesia's economic stagnation was Indonesian "laziness."

Isolation of Japan is vital if Kissinger is to succeed in carrying out his regional destabilization against Vietnam, Indonesia, and Malaysia. The Japanese have taken the lead in helping to rebuild Vietnam; a few weeks ago a major Japanese business mission sponsored by Japan's leading business organization, Keidanren, visited Vietnam to work out long range industrial and agricultural development deals with the socialist government. The integration of Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Japan into a development alliance is a major project of Japan's anti-Atlanticist business circles. Japanese business leaders like Sohei Nakayama, advisor to the government-funded Industrial Bank of Japan, have been working with Indonesian President Suharto and Foreign Minister Adam Malik to free Indonesia's vast oil reserves from the domination of Rockefeller's huge Caltex oil company. The Japanese have also forged close economic and political ties with Malaysia's Prime Minister Onn.

Malaysia

In the last two weeks, the Rockefeller oil companies have struck back. In Malaysia the head of the Malaysian State Oil Company Petronas, Tengku Razaleigh, was dumped from his job for being too tough with the Rockefeller oil companies. Razaleigh, who was following the lead of Indonesia's state oil company Pertamina which recently forced all foreign oil companies to increase their revenue payment to the government, was replaced by two more "moderate" civil servants. The Oct. 6 London Financial Times reports that the oil companies are "jubilant" that Razaleigh is gone.

Razaleigh's ouster was permitted by Prime Minister Onn, himself under enormous pressure from CIA-controlled military and special police units trained inside Malaysia. In the past year the special security forces, all initially trained by British intelligence MI5, have, under the cover of an "anti-communist" campaign, arrested over 250 "communists" in the state of Johore, Onn's base of support in the country. These "communists" have included high ranking government bureaucrats and young progressives who support Onn's programs, which are also backed by independent Malay commercial interests with close economic ties to Japan going back to the pre-World War II years.

Indonesia

The CIA has had less success in their attempts to destabilize the government of Indonesia. A few weeks ago a leading right-wing socialist and Second International agent Mohammed Hatta and several Indonesian "religious leaders" were briefly detained by the government for plotting a coup. The government warning against the elderly Hatta was aimed at the CIA-linked army faction organized by General Surono and the KAMI Indonesian student organization. Both Surono and KAMI are linked to the leading Indonesian CIA agent General Sumitro. KAMI also played a major role in both the anti-Japanese riots in 1974 as well as the massacre of the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) in 1965.

The danger that the current Indonesian government poses to the U.S. was evident in the speech of Indonesia's Foreign Minister Adam Malik this week to the United Nations (see United Nations report in this issue for speech excerpts).

The CIA has escalated its assault on Japanese business interests allied with the Indonesian government through another phony "Lockheed" scandal in Japan — this time aimed at those business leaders who are working to develop a Japanese multinational oil company in alliance with Pertamina.

According to the Asahi newspaper, on Oct. 1 a leader of the Maoist "New Tide Society" inside the Japanese Socialist Party, Yanosuke Narazaki, "pointed out suspicions about government and private Japanese aid regarding the development of low-sulfur oil in Indonesia and the import of liquified natural gas" to Japan's parliament. Narazaki, whose "New Tide Society" is closely linked to the right-wing agent faction of the Japanese Socialist Party led by Saburo Eda, demanded the creation of a special committee "to inquire into the affair and the summoning of those who carried out the relevant negotiations with Indonesia" and in particular to call Industrial Bank of Japan leader Sohei Nakayama.

The Thai Military: Mercenaries and Drug Runners For the CIA

Oct. 8 (NSIPS) |— This week's bloody military coup in Thailand, which left 35 students dead and hundreds wounded following student riots, could only have been the work of the CIA. The hanging of dead bodies, their mutilation and burning by mobs of fascist vocational students and paramilitary police carrying recoilless rifles, machine guns and grenade launchers, bears the authentic stamp of the men who planned the Vietnam war, and the current bloodbath in Lebanon.

The Thai military is an army of drug pushers, mercenaries and pimps. It was and has been under the control of the CIA since the first postwar Thai military coup in 1947, led by pro-Nazi General Phibum Songharn. This and the following coups led by Sarit Thanarat and Thanom Kittikachorn — and this week's events as well |— have been supported and armed with funds from the CIA drug trade. The plotters' other main source of funds: fees for Thai soldiers who fought as mercenaries in Vietnam and Laos at the rate of £50,000 a head per year.

It is primarily those involved in the Vietnam war counter-insurgency operation who are responsible for this week's atrocity — including senior officers from the CIA-trained Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC) and Interpol-linked paramilitary border police, who organized the fascist storm troopers who carried out the butchering of the students. Most important is Navapol and the paramilitary Red Guards organized by Colonel Sudsai Hasdin, who is attached to the Internal Security Operations command and was in charge of organizing Hill tribes in Northern Thailand. Other key organizers are: General Vitoon Yasawat, former commander Thai mercenaries who fought in Laos; General Wallop

Rojanawasit, primarily responsible for Navapol, who was former head of Thai Military Intelligence. He once told the Far Eastern Economic Review that he got the idea of forming the organization when he "was studying psychological warfare in the United States in 1953."

Navapol and the Red Guards were first organized in October 1974 at the height of student and worker ferment, and have since been deployed to crush workers' strikes and demonstrations. These fascist organizations are based on a crude ideology of devotion to Buddhism, love of the monarchy, anti-Vietnamese ethnic hatred, law and order and anti-communism. They are interlinked with Buddhist organizations financed directly by Chase Manhattan Bank and the Asia Foundation. These right-wing gangsters are known to have carried out assassinations of leftist and student leaders, including the assassination of the leader of the Socialist Party of Thailand just before the elections earlier this year. When these shock troops are not assassinating labor or farmer organization leaders or bombing the offices of the National Student Center of Thailand, they are protecting the army's drug routes from the heroingrowing region of the Golden Triangle. They have repeatedly been denounced by the Vietnamese and Laotians for creating border clashes and anti-Vietnamese riots in Thailand's northeast.

Nhan Dan Attacks Coup in Thailand

Oct. 8 (NSIPS) |— The following dispatch is reprinted from the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina.

HANOI, Oct. 8 |— The Vietnamese daily "Nhan Dan" commented today on the military coup in Thailand, calling it a reactionary development. The newspaper of the Vietnamese Workers Party charged that the authors of the coup are pro-U.S. military men, linked to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

The fascist measures promulgated just after the coup show that their executors have studied in the school of the CIA and have acted under the orders of the State Department, the paper said. Nhan Dan refuted lying arguments by the reactionary Thai forces that the fight of the Thammasat University students who were demanding the expulsion of Thanom formed part of the communist plans to occupy Thailand. The article continued: "These imputations cannot cover up the true situation in that country. The progressive tendencies in Thailand, who favored peace, the total pullout of U.S. troops, and the normalization of friendly relations with Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, are those that the U.S. and its allies want to abolish. U.S. imperialism was defeated in Indochina and its expeditionary troops were obliged to retire to Thailand. However, north American colonialism still has not resigned itself to removing its dirty feet from Southeast Asia. Moreover, the U.S. is trying to hold more tightly to Thailand to convert it into a base for the realization of its "new Pacific Doctrine" against the peoples of the region. The article concluded with a call to the peoples of the regions to intensify its solidarity, augment its vigilance, and accelerate the fight against all the maneuvers of the U.S. and its allies.